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SECURITY INFORMATION

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German Democratic Republic/Federal Republic

REPORT ON THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND INTRA-GERMAN TRADE (5 pp; German; [redacted] distribution date: 2 Jan 53)

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This [redacted] report on personalities and activities of the GDR Ministry of Foreign and Intra-German Trade. The report contains the following:

1. Short characterizations and descriptions of the functions of the various leading officials of the ministry, such as Minister Gregor, State Secretary Gantner-Gilmans, State Secretary Huettneraush, etc.

2. A report on the development of the GDR foreign trade.

The export plan fell far short of fulfillment for two reasons: Insufficient quantities and inadequate quality of goods available for export. Nonfulfillment of the export plan resulted in nonfulfillment of the import plan because of the shortage in foreign exchange. Prospects are that the import plan will regularly be about 7 percent underfulfilled.

3. Intra-German trade.

Long-time employees of the Main Department for Intra-German Trade maintain that the illegal ~~inter~~ interzonal trade was larger than the legal trade during the absence of the interzonal trade agreement. Firms handling illegal interzonal trade: MELETEX (Metals, Foodstuffs, and Textiles), DEAG (German Import and Export Company), and UNV (German Commodity Sales Company).

The [redacted] who finances the Deutsche Handels-gesellschaften West-Ost (West-East German Trading Companies), in ~~Emmerich~~ Hamburg, Munich (?), etc. but he feels confident that their money comes from GDR sources. He also furnishes some information on the GEFO (Company for East Trade).

The report also includes various data on GDR officials and on West Berliners cooperating with the GDR.

Luxury goods (leather goods, textiles, etc.) valued at 46 million DM [East or West ?] and luxury foods in the same amount are to be imported in order to absorb the excess buying power of the GDR intelligentsia.

During the middle of August 1952 the coffee stocks of the GDR were exhausted. At this point West Germany offered to export coffee to the GDR (in the amount of 6-8 million DM).

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